

*La*

*Pemberton Urban District Council.*

**Medical Officers' Annual Report,**

**FEBRUARY, 1903.**

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and Sewerage Committee.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Twenty-Ninth Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the Pemberton Urban District for the year ending December 31st, 1902, together with tables of vital statistics for the year and for ten previous years, and tables shewing causes of, and ages at, death during year 1902, and cases of infectious disease notified during the year; (Table C) a summary of Medical Officer's Report and a table of the rainfall observed at the (District Council's) Waterworks at Bispham, situate about two miles from the Council Offices.

The population is estimated at 22,071.

The births registered during the year total 866, one less than for the year before, and 3 less than the year 1900. Of this number 466 were males, and 400 females. The births exceeded the deaths by 485. The birth-rate is 39·2, slightly below the average for the two preceding years, and 1·87 below that for ten years. The births registered during the first quarter were 104 males and 115 females; during the second 118 and 105; during the third 116 and 89; during the fourth 128 and 91. The deaths registered, 209 males and 172 females; total, 381; the same as for the year 1895, and lower than any of the years following, and yielding a rate of 17·2, being 1·7 less than the preceding year, and 2·7 less than the average for the decennial period, and ·9 lower than (for 1897, which was) the lowest. The deaths during the first quarter were 46 males and 39 females; during the second, 54 and 47; during the third, 50 and 41; during the 4th, 59 and 45 respectively; totals, 209 and 172.

Death under six months.	Under one year.	Under two years.
1st quarter, 24	1st quarter, 31	1st quarter, 40
2nd „ 24	2nd „ 35	2nd „ 44
3rd „ 26	3rd „ 42	3rd „ 57
4th „ 38	4th „ 52	4th „ 63
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.. 112	161	202
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



Under five years.		Over five years.	
1st quarter,	52	...	33
2nd   ,,	47	...	54
3rd   ,,	61	...	30
4th   ,,	69	...	35
<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total ...	229		152
<hr/>		<hr/>	

The death-rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases per 1,000 of the population is 2·5; ten years, 2·75; excluding diarrhœa, is ·09.

The following is the order of prevalence:—Enteric-fever, 82 notified and 3 deaths, = 1-27; scarlet fever, 78-5 deaths, 1-25; diarrhœa, 34 deaths; diphtheria, 20 and 3 deaths; membranous croup, 1 death; Puerperal, 3 and 2 deaths.

Treated in hospital—scarlet fever, 2; enteric fever, 17 and no deaths.

Scarlet fever, rate per 1,000 ...	·22
Measles,                   ,,       ...	·4
Whooping-cough       ,,       ...	·18
Fever (enteric)       ,,       ...	·13
Diarrhœa               ,,       ...	1·5
Phthisis               ,,       ...	·5
Bronchitis and }       ,,       ...	3·2
Pneumonia       }	

No deaths are recorded from small-pox, typhus, cholera, continued fever, nor plague.

The death-rate among young children is high, in my opinion exposure to cold by mothers and others is a common predisposing cause.

*Small-pox.*—It is desirable that people should know what precautions may be taken against this virulent contagious disease, common at all ages, to which persons unprotected by vaccination are invariably attacked, rich and poor alike; it is conveyed by persons who have been in contact, especially after the eruption has appeared. A mild case may transmit the disease in a severe form, and vice versa; it spreads among the slightly or non-vaccinated like fire along dry grass; the symptoms are frontal headache, lumbar pains, vomiting, high temperature, quick pulse, flushed face, bright eye and rash of a measles or scarlet appearance. There should be prompt isolation. No visiting. All windows should be made to open and ventilation attended to, especially in those houses where it has been seriously interfered with by covering between the pantries or sculleries with glass. Nuisances should be promptly abated, and extra efforts made generally to keep clean, as districts habitually well cared for are least likely to spread disease.



*Scarlet Fever.*—Many cases are notified, yet there has been no epidemic of any magnitude, and very few deaths. A number of cases have been brought into the district from other places; in the neighbourhood of these caught the infection; few were isolated in hospital, owing in a great measure to parents preferring to nurse their children and keep them at home. There is not the same disposition with regard to enteric-fever, as those suffering are not usually of such tender years, therefore the greater number of cases treated in hospital are of this affection.

*Measles*, like scarlet fever, ranged over the year. Highfield was the only district free. The schools at Kitt Green were closed for a fortnight, chiefly owing to the disease being located in the adjoining district of Orrell. Deaths occurred in January, February, June, and August; in the West Ward during the 1st quarter, in the Central Ward during the 2nd quarter, in the East and North Wards during the 3rd quarter, and none in the 4th quarter.

*Whooping-Cough* caused 4 deaths under two years of age, in the West Ward in January. The cases were located in various parts of the district, and very few in number, compared with none for the preceding year.

*Diphtheria.*—20 cases and 3 deaths—1 in April and 1 in August. This disease is not common to the district.

*Membranous Croup.*—1 death at Newtown.

*Erysipelas.*—2 deaths in January and February.

*Epidemic Influenza* appeared in May, causing 1 death, and 1 in July, both in Central Ward.

*Phthisis* mostly hereditary, 4 dying at Goose Green during the last four months of the year.

*Bronchitis* and *Pneumonia* has been very slightly below the average of the two preceding years.

*Sewers*, owing to mining operations causing subsidence, have given considerable trouble. Some have been re-laid. Further ventilation of the same is required.

Excrement removal has been done as usual. I would advise and strongly urge your authority to devise a better system, so that the contents of ashpits may be emptied directly into the carts instead of on the yards.





Many streets have been paved, and some back yards might be paved or flagged, especially around the gullies and ashpits, and, if owing to the expense falling heavily on property owners, some of whom have had to pay for front streets, a portion, say, a passage to the door, could be done each year, thus spreading the cost of the same over a few years.

There is still a continued improvement in the treatment of sewage at the farm, the effluent being generally satisfactory.

The water supply has been good in quality and quantity, and leakages immediately attended to.

I made a special report on enteric-fever in November, and one in October, 1900, for the same locality.

Cowsheds, dairies, slaughter-houses and bakehouses have been systematically inspected. The outcome of inspection is as follows, viz.: During the 1st quarter—

*1st Quarter.*

Premises at Goose Green and Newtown noticed during inspection with insufficient closet and ashpit accommodation, notices served and new conveniences erected. In one case W.C. being provided and yard re-arranged. Many other ashpits leaking, wet and dilapidated repaired, cemented, and rendered dry.

Several cases of defective drains found at Mitchell Street, Bentinck Street, Kitt Green and Marsh Green, allowing free escape of sewer gas or lodgment of sewage. Drains re-laid and gullies changed after owners had been notified. Many minor stoppages in house drains made good.

Cellars containing foul stagnant water at Marsh Green, Newtown and Spring Bank. Floors were afterwards concreted, flagged and drained after notices served.

Nuisances caused by overcrowding of dwelling-houses found at Newtown and Marsh Green, and abatement obtained after serving notices. Also houses requiring limewashing in Albert Street, Gibralter and Wardley Streets.

Defective slop-pipes and bath-wastes badly arranged (afterwards put in order) at Lamberhead Green and Highfield.

Smoke nuisance from bakehouse in Albert Street abated on owners attention being drawn to it.

At Goose Green, Worsley Mesnes and Marsh Green, backyards common to several houses noticed to be in a dirty condition, and requiring paving or flagging to make them clean. Work carried out after serving notices.





Landowners permission obtained and back cartway opened out at Worsley Mesnes to avoid nuisance previously caused when ashpit excrement was emptied on to surface of yards.

*2nd Quarter.*

Farmhouse and outbuildings at Kitt Green found without proper drainage, and conditions otherwise insanitary. Reported and notices ordered to be served. New drains laid and premises cleansed. Ventilation, lighting and flooring to shippens improved.

At Newtown, Worsley Mesnes, Spring Bank, Goose Green and Lamberhead Green, many properties noticed with leaking and wet ashpits. These were made right and rendered dry by raising the bottoms and cementing and repairing the brickwork. Notices served. Closets and ashpits re-constructed at New Street.

Dirty houses limewashed at Newtown, Lamberhead Green and Worsley Mesnes, and many stoppages and other defects in house drains attended to.

New pipe drainage system with properly trapped gullies arranged at Gerard's Shunt Cottages, these previously having only a brick sough without traps, and sewage lodging in open ditch. Notice was served on owner.

Flooded cellar at Newtown relieved and cleaned, and drain put in order. Several cases of pigeons being kept in closets dealt with.

Common backyards at Newtown and Goose Green reported with surfaces foul and in need of flagging. Notices served and work subsequently done.

Accumulations of foul matter dealt with at Newtown and other places, and also piggery in an unsatisfactory condition at Kitt Green.

Erection of roughly-formed wood piggery close to highway at Newtown reported, and removal effected after communication with owner.

*3rd Quarter.*

Backyards common to several houses observed with surfaces unpaved and very dirty at Half-Way House, Lamberhead Green, and Goose Green. Notices served on owners, and afterwards yards paved and flagged.



Ashing of passages and about houses where water lodging carried out after owners' attention was drawn to the same.

Nuisance caused by stable erected in small house-yard at Worsley Mesnes, and pigeon and poultry-keeping in Newtown and Marsh Green. Notices served and abatement of nuisances obtained.

Inspections at Goose Green, Lamberhead Green, Spring Bank, and Newtown revealed ashpits and closets dilapidated, leaking, and wet. These were reconstructed, repaired, and made dry after owners were notified.

Fouling of foundations and dampness in walls caused by defective slop-pipes and downspouts found and remedied. Owners written to.

Visitation of houses disclosed overcrowding of dwelling-houses at Alfred Street, Wardley Street, and Marsh Green. Nuisances abated on notices being served.

#### *4th Quarter.*

Complaints of smells from sewer man-holes investigated and reported upon, resulting in additional ventilators being erected.

Properties examined and roofs found defective at Highfield and Lamberhead Green, and others at Newtown, Little Lane, and Goose Green, where living-rooms and bedrooms were found in a dirty condition. Roofs repaired and limewashing carried out after notices were served.

At Lamberhead Green, Newtown, and Goose Green, several cases of manure accumulation and many yards in a dirty condition dealt with.

Nuisances caused by leaking and wet ashpits found at Spring Bank, Enfield Street, Little Lane, and Newtown. Abatement obtained after notices were served and carried out.

Owners communicated with about the dilapidated condition of privies and ashpits at Spring Bank and Worsley Mesnes, which were subsequently taken down and rebuilt.

Many stoppages in house drains attended to. Untrapped and defective gullies and drains allowing free escape of sewer gas in each ward of the district put in order. Drains taken up and relaid throughout at Kitt Green and Lamberhead Green.

Testing of drains revealed in one case at Spring Bank the surface drain under the house running into old stone drain; this has since been connected to the main sewer.



Owners communicated with re paving the surfaces of common back yards at Goose Green, and agreements entered into for carrying out the work.

Common yard flagged at Thwaites' Delf, and cellar re-drained and flagged at Highfield.

The number of house chimney flues swept during the year by the man specially retained by the Council for this work, is 572.

The ashpits emptied and cleaned during the year number 6,299, against 6,579 in 1901. In 1902, 11,067 loads were removed, and in 1901, 11,516 loads.

At the end of 1901 the district was thoroughly scavenged.

Three w.c.'s have been substituted for privies, 34 closets and 14 ashpits have been re-constructed, 35 wet ashpits raised and rendered dry, and 56 closets and ashpits repaired, cemented, or roofed when found leaking or dilapidated.

Every encouragement has again been given to the people to use disinfectants in and about their houses. Carbolic and powder was freely supplied.

The whole of the house gullies throughout the district have been cleaned and disinfected by the Council's men, who have also removed 185 chaff beds and mattresses to the sewage farm for destruction.

Fumigation of 94 houses has been carried out in all cases after fever, and a large quantity of infected clothing and bedding removed to the hospital and disinfected in the stove.

Thirty-seven new houses and one police station have been erected during the year.

The rainfall recorded at the Council's Waterworks during the year ended December 31st, 1902, was:—

			1902.	1901.
January	..	...	2.99	2.66
February	..	..	1.51	1.29
March	...	...	2.15	1.94
April	...	...	2.20	2.42
May	...	...	3.87	1.19
June	..	...	1.90	2.12
July	...	...	3.19	2.28
August	...	...	3.18	3.26
September	...	...	1.58	1.32
October	..	...	4.62	3.35
November	..	...	2.34	3.67
December	...	..	2.80	3.44
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			32.33	28.94
			<hr/>	<hr/>





Average for the last ten years:—33·58

	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Puerperal Fever	Membraneous Group	Total	North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Central Ward	Total
January.....	2	4	4	—	1	1	12	3	—	7	1	1	12
February .....	4	6	4	—	1	1	16	5	6	1	4	—	16
March .....	11	10	3	7	1	1	33	10	7	2	8	6	33
April .....	1	3	1	3	—	—	8	1	2	2	2	1	8
May .....	3	16	3	6	—	—	28	2	—	3	11	12	28
June .....	1	7	2	—	—	—	10	1	—	6	2	1	10
July .....	3	7	2	—	—	—	12	7	4	—	—	1	12
August .....	6	8	4	1	—	—	19	5	1	3	8	2	19
September.....	16	1	3	1	—	—	21	2	7	8	2	2	21
October .....	22	3	3	—	—	—	28	5	16	4	—	3	28
November.....	12	8	2	1	—	—	23	10	4	5	1	3	23
December .....	1	5	5	1	—	—	11	2	5	1	2	2	11
Totals .....	82	78	36	20	3	3	222	53	52	42	41	34	222

	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Membraneous Group.	Total.	Estimated Population
North Ward...	18	18	11	5	1	—	53	6,248
South Ward...	35	13	1	2	—	1	52	3,186
East Ward ...	16	21	4	—	—	1	42	2,664
West Ward ...	6	13	13	8	1	—	41	4,087
Central Ward..	7	13	7	5	1	1	34	5,479
	82	78	36	20	3	3	222	21,664

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

R. HARTLEY,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

